

**FREDERICK COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**  
**Monday, April 12, 2021, 1:00 PM**  
**Virtual Meeting held via WebEx**  
**301-600-1234**

<b>COA MEMBERS</b>	<b>SSD STAFF</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>	<b>UNEXCUSED</b>	<b>GUESTS</b>
Barbara Angleberger	Kitty Devilbiss	Rev. Dr. Wayne Blazer		Emilee Blackburn
George Carroll	Brad Peterson	Donna Kuzemchak		Shawn Dennison
M.C. Keegan-Ayer	Sue Ramsburg			
Tom Lawler	Kathy Schey			
Sally Livingston	Carolyn True			
Bud Otis				
Thea Uhlig-Ruff				
Penny Van Rens				

- I. **Welcome & Introductions** –Bud Otis called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm and welcomed all attendees. Public comment will be accepted at this meeting. Individuals can call in and their comment will be played at the end of the meeting and will be included in the Board minutes.
- II. **Action on the Agenda** – Tom Lawler, Chairman of the Nomination Committee, will be reporting on a Board resignation and two interviews for new members.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the January 11, 2021 were approved at today's meeting. Motion to approve: Sandy Wastler. Second: Barbara Angleberger. Motion passed to approve the minutes.
- IV. **Elected Officials' Comments** – Frederick County Council President M.C. Keegan-Ayer was present at today's meeting and offered information about two upcoming budget meetings. The County Executive will be releasing the budget on Thursday, April 15 at 11:00am. The County Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April

20. The County Council will be getting a presentation on the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) budget by the Budget Director on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

- V. COVID Division of the Frederick County Health Department – Shawn Dennison, Public Affairs Officer** - Shawn Dennison attended today's meeting to present information about the status of COVID-19 in Frederick County and an update on the vaccination effort by the Health Department. There is information on the Frederick County Government webpage, which is updated daily. The statistics for Frederick County are in-line with the statistics from the rest of the state. There was an increase in cases at the end of March. This is a concern for a potential fourth wave. Shawn reviewed the hospital admission (acute and ICU) rates over the course of the COVID outbreak to show the impact on the healthcare system.

The vaccination effort has been extremely successful. Frederick Health Hospital and the Frederick County Health Department has provided about fifty percent of the vaccine at this point. The other fifty percent has been a combination of pharmacies, employers, and state mass vaccination sites. Twenty-five percent of Frederick County residents who are eligible at this time have been fully vaccinated. Frederick County is doing exceptionally well at this point with vaccinations. The Senior Services Division has been a key partner in the outreach efforts with vaccination education. The Virtual Senior Center hosted some virtual learning and presentations to educate the senior population on how to sign up for a vaccine appointment. The vaccine call center was a great benefit for folks who may be lacking the technology to make an on-line appointment. Eighty-two percent of seniors 65 and older in Frederick County have received one dose at this point. Shawn shared statistics based on ethnicity, and Frederick County has done a good job making sure vaccines are distributed equitably. Walgreens and CVS pharmacies are working with long-term care and assisted living facilities to make sure their residents and/or staff are vaccinated as requested. The Governor announced a mass vaccination site for tomorrow in Frederick County. This is the vaccination site at FCC but will now have some state support and it is shown on the State of Maryland webpage. The number to call for a vaccine appointment is 301-600-7900 and 301-600-7905 for Spanish speaking individuals. Even though the County is in a good place with vaccination rates, it is still important to take precautions when in the public.

Questions –

Is there an option for individuals who are homebound and cannot get to a vaccination center?

Kathy stated that SSD staff meet weekly with Todd Johnson at the Health Department to discuss homebound individuals. There has been some outreach done to providers who are aware of homebound to get a comprehensive list. There will be an effort to make vaccine visits to homebound at a future time. If you know of a homebound person, please call the vaccine call center or the Senior Services Division.

Is there a way to a specific vaccine? A one shot vaccine as opposed to the two shot vaccine.

There is no easy way to get a specific vaccine since the mass vaccine sites do not always know which one they will receive. Individuals can go to the Maryland website, look at the list of providers, and contact them to find out which vaccine they are administering.

Is there a program in Frederick County that is using the monoclonal antibody treatments?

Not that Shawn is aware of, but he will let the group know when/if he finds out that information.

**VI. Senior Services Division Update, Kathy Schey** – Currently the Division's top priorities are to support the vaccination clinic, to help in the call center, to deliver meals, and to provide the services, support programs, and activities that allow older citizens to age in place. Staff have been part of the team that is working to make sure seniors are getting vaccines if they want one. The nutrition programs continue to meet the needs of vulnerable older adults. Senior care team continues to provide in-home services to help seniors age in place. The Medicare D Open Enrollment assistance program went virtual this year and assistance with the homeowner's tax credit is now being done as with drive-through appointments. The Powerful Tools for Caregivers program has also gone virtual and has been successful with that transition. The Virtual Senior Center continues to flourish and expand with new programs. In Frederick County, facilities remain closed out of an abundance of caution for the safety of our staff and clients. County Executive Gardner is supportive of the senior population. The older adult population is more vulnerable to the COVID outbreak than other age groups. The opening of the senior center buildings will be phased in and based on guidance from the Health Department. The top priorities for the Division will continue to be assisting the vaccine clinics, helping in the call center, and the delivery of food. When the buildings do open gradually, some programs may need to be scaled back and some will need to grow slowly.

Kitty spoke about the nutrition celebration for Older Americans Month. There will be a special meal held in a drive-through environment at each of the senior centers. Mondays in the month of May will have a special meal from a local restaurant hosted by each senior center. Reservations will be required in advance with a registration deadline. CARES funding will be used to support the meal so there will be no cost to the seniors who participate. A flyer with a description of the event and the details will be available tomorrow. The flyer will be sent out electronically and will be on the Division webpage. The first meal will be on May 3 and will be hosted by the Urbana Senior Center.

Brad spoke about the upcoming Veteran Recognition and Resource Fair, which will be held virtually on July 14, July 21, and July 28. The times for the sessions will be 10a-12p, 2p-4p, and 6p-8p. There will be different sessions full of information and resources available during these times. Individuals can sign up for as many as they would like. Topics and workshops will include information on history, benefits, and

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recreation. The virtual event will be user-friendly. Information will be sent to the Board electronically.

- VII. Nomination: Advisory Board's Liaison on the Adult Public Guardianship Review (APGR) Board Term – July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024.** There is a nomination for Sandy Wastler to be the Senior Services Advisory Board's liaison for the APGR Board. Tom made a motion to approve this nomination. Sally seconded this motion. All are in favor.

There are several members up for renewal for the SSAB. Tom will make a motion for each one individually. Motion for Thea Ruff renew her membership, Bud seconded the motion. All are in favor. Motion for Bud Otis to renew his membership, Sally seconded the motion. All are in favor. Motion for Barbara Angleberger to renew her membership, Thea seconded the motion. All are in favor. Pat Althardt has submitted her resignation and Tom's membership has expired with no ability to renew. This is Tom's last meeting as a member and he thanked everyone for their work over his term of membership. Tom stated that the Board has received two letters of interest for membership to the Board.

- VIII. New Business –** There are eight subcommittees within the Senior Services Advisory Board. They are Business Task Force, Legislative, Aging in Place, Nominations, Programs, Health, Transportation, and Housing. If you have any interest in working on any of these committees, please contact Bud at [budotis10@gmail.com](mailto:budotis10@gmail.com).
- IX. Old Business -** No new business to discuss at today's meeting.
- X. Announcements –** The next Senior Services Advisory Board meetings will be held on July 12, 2021.
- XI. Public Comment –** No public comment at today's meeting.
- XII. Adjournment -** Meeting adjourned at 2:03 pm.

Susan M. Ramsburg, Recording Secretary